



PAUL FARROW

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

December 13, 2011

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of Assembly Bill 330. This bill allows for the creation of a special group license plate, for the ALS Association – Wisconsin Chapter.

This issue was brought to my attention by a constituent, Mr. Thomas Kettler, whose family has been directly affected by ALS. Mr. Kettler serves on the Board of Directors of the ALS Association – Wisconsin Chapter, and is also here today. He will testify about the devastating impact of ALS, the need for more research, and about the vital support that the ALS Association provides to individuals and families all across the state of Wisconsin.

A bit of background about the ALS disease, and the organization that this bill is designed to help. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis – abbreviated ALS, and also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease – is a disease that is 100% fatal. It is a rapidly progressive neurological disorder that attacks the nerve cells responsible for controlling voluntary muscle movement. The average patient survives between 2-5 years, and the condition afflicts people of all ages, race, and backgrounds.

The ALS Association – Wisconsin Chapter is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization that is dedicated to helping Wisconsin ALS patients and their families, and to raising public awareness about the disease and generating research funds. There are currently over 300 Wisconsin residents that have ALS that are being helped by the Wisconsin Chapter.

Assembly Bill 330 allows for a special group license plate to be created for the ALS Association – Wisconsin Chapter. The goal of the license plate is two-fold: to gain public awareness of ALS, and raise funds to fight the disease.

The legislation is very clear. All individuals who choose to purchase the special plate must first pay the regular vehicle registration fee. The special plate members would then pay a \$15 fee for issuance or reissuance of the special plates, and a \$25 annual fee that provides funds to the ALS Association – Wisconsin Chapter. All funds generated by the special plate would first go to defray the start-up costs incurred by the DOT, estimated to be \$23,700. **There is no additional cost to the State, and no taxpayer funds would be involved.**

This initiative is non-partisan, and I truly hope we can generate support for patients and families all across Wisconsin who struggle with this affliction.

Thank you for your time and attention, I am happy to answer any questions.

SERVING WAUKESHA COUNTY'S 98TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT